



**CITY OF HAMPTON
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION DRAFT ACTION MINUTES
January 13, 2026,
6:30 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
17 EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH, HAMPTON, GA 30228.**
<https://youtube.com/live/WtleHezR18M?feature=share>

1. Opening Ceremonies.

- A.** Call to Order.
Mayor Tarpley called the meeting to order.
- B.** Invocation by Ramon Thomas of Zion Baptist Church.
The invocation was led by Ramon Thomas of Zion Baptist Church.
- C.** Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

2. Appointments.

- A.** Consideration and Action to accept the Resignation of L.F. Barnes, LLC as City Attorney.

Councilmember White Williams motioned to accept the resignation of LF Barnes, LLC, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

- B.** Consideration and Action on the appointment of Denmark Ashby Matricardi LLC, City Attorney for 2026. (**Resolution 2026-06**)

Councilmember White Williams motioned to accept the appointment of Denmark Ashby Matricardi, LLC, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Voting Yea: Councilmembers Duchesne, Mitchell, Chaney, Brooks, White Williams

Voting Nay: Councilmember Meeks

Passed (5-1)

- C.** Consideration and Action on the appointment of City Clerk for 2026.
(Michelle Hood served as City Clerk from July 29, 2025, to December 2025).

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to reappoint Michelle Hood as City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

Passed (6-0)

- D. Consideration and Action on the appointment of Solicitor for 2026.
(*Julie Kert with Yeargan & Kert LLC served as the Solicitor for 2025*).

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to reappoint Julie Kert as Solicitor, seconded by Councilmember White Williams.

Passed (6-0)

- E. Consideration and Action on the appointment of Associate Solicitor for 2026.
(*LeRoya Chester with Chester Jennings Law Group LLC served as Solicitor for 2025*).

Councilmember White Williams motioned to reappoint LeRoya Chester as Associate Solicitor, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

- F. Consideration and Action to accept the resignation of Piper & Sandler as Financial Advisor.

Councilmember White Williams motioned to accept the resignation of Piper & Sandler as Financial Advisor, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

- G. Consideration and Action on appointment of Mayor Pro Tem for 2026.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to appoint Councilmember White Williams as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

- H. Appointment of COH Ethics Committee Members.

Sec.2-307 a

The term of office of ethics committee members shall begin on the date of appointment and end at the end of the present term of the nominating member of the council. Should the nominating member of council be re-elected to a subsequent term, the ethics committee member must be reappointed but shall serve until he/she is reappointed or until a successor is appointed. Vacancies during a term on the ethics committee shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term of the office by the city council member who experienced such vacancy. Members of the ethics committee cannot also serve on existing city committees or boards.

- i. Frank DeYounks- appointed by Councilmember White Williams
- ii. Henry Byrd- appointed by Councilmember Melissa Brooks
- iii. Dawn Greer- appointed by Councilmember Pam Duchesne
- iv. Brian Duchesne- appointed by Councilmember Errol Mitchell
- v. Catherine Daniel- appointed by Councilmember Sherry Chaney
- vi. Taylor Fluery-appointed by Councilmember Marty Meeks
- vii. ?? Mayor

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve the Ethics Committee members, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

Passed (6-0)

3. Presentation and Approval of City Council Agenda

A. Regular Session Meeting Agenda for January 13, 2026.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to amend the agenda with the removal of Item 11 B, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White Williams.

Passed (6-0)

Mayor Pro Tem White Williams motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

4. Presentation and Approval of City Council Minutes

A. Regular Session Summary Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2025.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to approve the Regular Session Summary Minutes, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Passed (6-0)

5. Acknowledgement of Guest (s) Proclamations and Plaques

A. Mr. Tony Carnell, Henry County Water Authority- Presentation

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 pm, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Mayor Pro Tem White Williams motioned to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:18 pm, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Mayor Pro Tem Kesha White Williams makes a motion to terminate City Manager Alex Cohilas for cause, effective immediately, based on findings discussed in the Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Voting Yea: Councilmembers: Brooks, Duchesne, Mitchell, Chaney, Mayor Pro Tem White Williams.

Voting Nay: Councilmember Meeks

Passed (5-1)

Mayor Pro Tem White Williams motioned to appoint Chief James Turner as Interim City Manager, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Passed (6-0)

6. Public Comments

7. Youth Council Update

8. City Manager's Update

9. Unfinished Business

- A.** Consideration and Action to approve **Ordinance 2025-33** (Second Read); request to amend the Hampton Code of Ordinance Chapter 86 – Utilities, Article III – Sewage Disposal, Section 86-91 – Grease Management Program. This concerns the requirements for grease management for the City of Hampton.

Passed: 6-0 (Unanimous)

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-33, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Passed (6-0)

10. Consent Agenda

- A. Consideration and Action to Approve **Resolution 2026-04** Authorizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Financial Advisor. The scope of services shall include, but not be limited to, advising the Mayor and City Council on long-term financial planning, budget development and analysis, debt management, bond issuance, capital improvement planning, reserve and fund balance policies, cash flow analysis, and overall fiscal sustainability.
- B. Consideration and action on approving the alcohol license renewal applications for the following businesses in the City of Hampton.

Family Dollar Store #25987	Leann's Gourmet Foods (Rutabaga's Market and Cafe)
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(All businesses shall have a current City of Hampton Business license, current state alcohol license, background check, annual fire inspection, and renewal fees paid prior to issuance of a city alcohol license)

Councilmember White Williams motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell.

Passed (6-0)

11. New Business

- A. Consideration and Action to approve **Resolution 2026-05** Authorizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) Water and Sewer Rate Study. A resolution to authorize the review and commissioning of a comprehensive rate study to evaluate all water and sewer base charges to ensure rates are equitable, financially sustainable, and aligned with operational costs, infrastructure needs, and industry best practices.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve Resolution 2026-05, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Passed (6-0)

- B. Consideration and Action on the adoption of **Ordinance 2026-01** (first read) Consideration and Action on the annexation by the 60% method for the application AX-25-09-08; property Owners Lower Woolsey Partners, LLC (Henry County Tax ID 003-01042002, +/- 112.98-acres), Board of Regents for the University of Georgia (Henry County Tax ID 004-01003001, +/- 18.25-acres, and 004-01003000, 27.14- acres).

This item was removed from the agenda.

- C. Consideration and Action to approve **Resolution 2026-01** to submit an application for Transportation Improvement ("TIP") funding from Atlanta Regional Commission ("ARC") through the Livable Centers Initiative ("LCI") grant program. The requested funding is for construction of a pedestrian bridge that will connect sections of West King Road that were severed in conjunction with the construction of GA HWY 20. The proposed Resolution authorizes staff to complete the TIP grant application for FY2026.

Council member Meeks motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01. The motion failed due to a

lack of a second.

- D. Consideration and Action to approve **Resolution 2026-02** to submit an application for Transportation Improvement Program ("TIP") grant funding from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) through Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program grant. The requested funding is for design and construction of East King Street Realignment project.

Council member Meeks motioned to approve Resolution 2026-02. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

- E. Consideration and Action to approve **Resolution 2026-03** authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of an independent forensic auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit of the City of Hampton's operational and administrative processes, including but not limited to procurement policies, financial management, human resources policies and practices, purchasing and approval procedures, licensing and permitting processes, fee structures, property tax assessments, and water, sewer, and utility billing and revenue practices.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve Resolution 2026-03, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White Williams.

Voting Yea: Councilmembers Duchesne, Mitchell, Chaney, Brooks, Mayor Pro Tem White Williams

Voting Nay: Councilmember Meeks

Passed (5-1)

- F. Council discussion to review and assess all previously approved and currently pending data center permits and applications within the City of Hampton. This discussion will include an examination of approval timelines, compliance with zoning and land-use regulations, infrastructure capacity impacts (including water, sewer, power, and public safety), and consistency with regional planning standards. The purpose of this discussion is to ensure transparency, identify any outstanding conditions or compliance issues, and evaluate the cumulative impact of data center development on the City's long-term planning, financial sustainability, and quality of life.
- G. Council discussion regarding all current and anticipated annexation requests to the City of Hampton. This item will include a review of annexation procedures, service delivery obligations, fiscal and infrastructure impacts, and alignment with the City's comprehensive plan and growth strategy. The discussion is intended to evaluate whether annexation requests support orderly growth, protect the City's financial and operational capacity, and align with the long-term interests of residents and stakeholders.
- H. Council discussion to review past and present zoning requirements, rezonings, variances, special use permits, and related approvals granted by the City of Hampton. This discussion will focus on consistency with adopted zoning ordinances, the comprehensive plan, and established approval processes, as well as any deviations, precedents, or policy gaps that may exist. The purpose is to ensure zoning decisions have been applied fairly, lawfully, and consistently, and to identify potential areas for policy clarification, corrective action, or future amendments.
- I. Council discussion regarding the appointment of City Council members to serve as Council liaisons or representatives on the City of Hampton's boards, authorities, and committees. This item will include consideration of appointments necessary to ensure each body is properly staffed, supported, and aligned with the City Council's policy direction and governance responsibilities
- J. Council discussion regarding updates on the status of water from the City of Griffin and (or) Henry County Water Authority for Equinox Construction. How are they getting water? What are

the future water plans for Equinox?

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to have a Work Session for Items F-I, to include all key players, seconded by Councilmember Meeks. The proposed dates are January 21, 27, and 28th at 6:30 p.m. TBD.

Passed (6-0)

12. Positive Happenings

13. Executive Session for the purpose of legal, personnel, real estate, and/or Cyber Security.

14. Adjournment.

Councilmember White Williams motioned to adjourn at 9:20 pm, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Passed (6-0)

Ann N. Tarpley, Mayor

Michelle Hood, City Clerk

ADA Compliance: Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, or the facilities are required to contact the City Clerk at 770-946-4306 promptly on the Thursday before the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those needing assistance.